

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 11301 01 OF 02 121422Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 /076 W

-----088968 121457Z /46

R 120918Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 11301

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINR, PDEV, NI, SHUM

SUBJECT: PUNCH: "HOW MANY POLITICAL PARTIES WILL NIGERIA HAVE?"

BEGIN SUMMARY: PUNCH SEES FOUR VIABLE POLITICAL PARTIES
EMERGING FROM AMONG THE PRESENT CONTENDERS WHICH INCLUDE
THE MARXISTS, CHIEF AWOLowo, AN NCNC GROUP, THE WADA/KANO
IKOKU GROUPING, THE NORTHERN ESTABLISHMENT AND WAZIRI
IBRAHIM. END SUMMARY

1. ACCORDING TO POLITICUS COLUMN ENTITLED "HOW MANY
POLITICAL PARTIES WILL NIGERIA HAVE?" IN SEPTEMBER 9
PUNCH, WE ARE LIKELY TO SEE "ONLY FOUR VIABLE PARTIES"
WHEN THE BAN ON POLITICS IS LIFTED IN THREE WEEKS.
PUNCH REPORTS THAT, DESPITE NIGERIAN SECURITY ORGANIZATION
SURVEILLANCE, "NIGERIAN POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE BEEN
VERY MUCH IN THE FIELD AND HAVE ALMOST PUT FINISHING
TOUCHES TO THEIR VARIOUS PLANS." AS A RESULT, THE
FOLLOWING PARTIES CAN BE EXPECTED TO EMERGE.

2. THE MARXIST-SOCIALIST GROUP. ACCORDING TO PUNCH,
THE MARXISTS, "WHATEVER NAME THEY MAY ADOPT," WILL BE
THE ONLY PARTY WITH "A CLEAR-CUT IDEOLOGICAL STANCE."
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 11301 01 OF 02 121422Z

PUNCH ADDS:

"ALTHOUGH IT WILL BE VERY SMALL AND, IN
TERMS OF 1979 ELECTIONS, ABSOLUTELY
UNIMPRESSIVE, IT WILL BE TRULY NATIONAL.
THE LEADING SPIRITS OF THE ORGANISATIONS WILL
BE DAPO FATOGUN, WAHAB GOODLUCK, S.U. BASSEY,
BABA OMOJOLA, YUSUF BALA USMAN AND SEGUN

OSOBA BUT THERE WILL BE QUITE A FEW NEW FACES,
PARTICULARLY FROM THE UNIVERSITIES."
PUNCH SPECULATES THAT SOME OF THE RECENTLY SACKED
UNIVERSITY LECTURERS MAY JOIN THE GROUP BUT COMMENTS,
"IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER ULTRA-LEFT-WINGERS LIKE COMRANDE
OLA ONI AND HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, NIYI ONIORORO, WILL BE
WILLING TO WORK WITH THE RATHER PRO-SOVIET GROUP."

3. PUNCH NOTES, "IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT PROMINENT
NIGERIAN LABOUR CONGRESS LEADERS WILL IDENTIFY THEMSELVES
WITH THE MARXIST-SOCIALIST PARTY IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS,
EVEN THOUGH HASSAN SUNMONU AND LAWRENCE OSUNDE HAVE THEIR
NATURAL HABITAT WITH THIS GROUP." (FYI: A POSITION CONFIRMED
BY SUNMONU ON SEPTEMBER 11. END FYI) PUNCH CONCLUDES, "TRUE
MARXIST-SOCIALISTS DO NOT EXPECT TO REAP ANY HARVEST IN
THE 1979 GENERAL ELECTIONS; THEIR DAY IS NOT YET--

AND THEY KNOW IT."

3. CHIEF AWOLOWO'S GROUP. ACCORDING TO PUNCH, "IT
IS NOW CLEAR THAT THERE WILL BE A PARTY UNDER THE LEADER-
SHIP OF CHIEF OBAFEMI AWOLOWO AND THE "COMMITTEE OF
FRIENDS". ASIDE FROM "THE AREAS WHERE HE IS MOST
POPULAR, YORUBALAND, BENDEL STATE, THE MIDDLE BELT AREA
AND THE CROSS RIVER AND RIVERS STATE," THE CHIEF,
"ACCORDING TO HIS FRIENDS," HAS "BROKEN NEW AND IMPORTANT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 11301 01 OF 02 121422Z

GROUND" IN THE NORTH AND THE EAST. "HIS PARTY IS LIKELY
TO BE INCLUDING ALL SHADES FROM NEO-MARXISTS AND LEFT-OF-
CENTRE SOCIALISTS TO RIGHT OF CENTRE ELEMENTS."

4. A NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NIGERIAN CITIZENS (NCNC) GROUP.
IN PUNCH'S VIEW, "THOSE NCNC LEADERS WHO ALWAYS FAVORED
CO-OPERATION WITH THE NPC IN PRE-1964 DAYS HAVE RALLIED
TOGETHER AND WILL FORM A PARTY, USING THE NEPU SUPPORTERS
THAT HAVE BROKEN WITH ALHAJI AMINU KANO AS THEIR POINT
OF REFERENCE IN THE NORTH." PUNCH REPORTS:
JAA THE MOST PROMINENT LEADERS OF THIS GROUP
ARE DR. K.O. MBADIWE, MBAZULIKE AMECHI,
M.T. MBU, CHIEF OLU AKINFOSILE, AND CHIEF
ADENIRAN GUGUNSANY. THIS GROUP HAS WOODED
THE MIDDLE-BELT AND, AT SOME POINT, COULD
CLAIM TO HAVE WON OVER PAUL UNONGO AND S.D.
LAR. AMONG THE YORUBAS S.A. ONITIRI AND
OLU AWOTESU WERE COURTGD:AK

5. INUWA WADA/AMINU KANO/SAM IKOKU.
--"PROBABLY THE MOST INTERESTING GROUP THAT
WILL EMERGE IS THE PARTY THAT WILL HAVE

ALHAJI INUWA WADA, AMINU KANO AND DR. S.G. IKOKU IN
ITS LEADERSHIP. SICKE AMINU KANO AND S.G.
IKOKU FOUND THEMSELVES LEADING THE NIGERIAN
AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY ORGANISATION TO FIGHT
IT OUT WITH BOPO FATOGUN'S AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES
SOLIDARITY ORGAIIISATION, THEY HAVE BEEN
WORKING ON LEADING A POLITICAL PARTY
TOGETHER. BOTH OF THEM HOLD LEFT-WING VIEWS.
IKOKU DEFINITELY MORE SO. LATELY, THEY HAVE
FOUND A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH INUWA WADA
IN KANO. IF THEIR GROUP DOES NOT TEAM UP
WITH ONE OF THE FOUR THAT WILL REALLY EMERGE,
THEY WILL NOT MAKE ANY IMPRESSIVE
SHOWING IN THE 1979 ELECTIONS."
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LAGOS 11301 01 OF 02 121422Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 11301 02 OF 02 121138Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /076 W

-----087373 121458Z /46

R 120918Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 484
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LAGOS 11301

6. THE NORTHERN ESTABLISHMENT. ACCORDING TO PUNCH, TWO
NORTHERN PARTIES WILL EMERGE. "ONE WILL BE LED LARGELY
BY THE EDUCATED MIDDLE-CLASS AND ARISTOCRACY AMONG THE
HAUSA-FULANI" PUNCH ADDS:
--"TOZMZIL A FEW WEEKS AGO, THE LEADING LIGHTS OF
THIS GROUP IBRAHIM TAHIR, ADAMU CIROMA,
SHETTIMA ALI MONGUNO, IYA ABUBAKAR, MAHMUD
TUKUR - WERE UNABLE TO PERSUADE SHEHU
SHAGARI TO ACCEPT TO LEAD. REPORTS SAY HE

HAS NOW AGREED TO LEAD. THIS GROUP WILL ALSO BE NATIONAL; IT WILL HAVE SUPPORTERS FROM RIVERS STATE, SOME AMONG THE IBOS LIKE CHIEF UDOJI AND J.O.J. OKEZIE. IN YORUBALAND, CHIEF RICHARD AKINJIDE, CHIEF A.M.A. AKINLOYE AND CHIEF REMIN FANI KAYODE HAVE NOT MADE UP THEIR MINDS WHETHER TO JOIN THME, ALTHOUGH THEY WILL NOT SUPPORT AWOLOWO."

7. WAZIRI IBRAHIM. PUNCH REPORTS THAT THE OTHER NORTHERN-LED PARTY WILL BE WAZIRI IBRAHIM'S GROUP. HE HAS MADE UP HIS MIND TO FORM ONE IN SPITE OF OPPOSITION FROM SOKOTO, KNAO AND BAUCHI. HIS LIEUTENANTS WILL BE FOUND IN RIVERS, CROSS RIVER, ANAMBRA AND KWARA STATES. IN YORUBALAND HIS ALLIES WILL BE CHIEF AKIN DEKO AND MAJOR-GENERAL ROBERT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 11301 02 OF 02 121138Z

ADEBAYO.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

8. COMMENT: POLITICUS PROVIDED US WITH A RICH ASSORTED STEW OF NIGERIAN POLITICS AT THE MOMENT. WE FIND THE COMMENTS ON THE MARXISTS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING BUT ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH PUNCH THAT '79 WILL NOT BE THEIR YEAR. ON AWOLOWO, IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER ANY "NEW AND IMPORTANT GROUNDS" HAVE BEEN BROKEN IN THE NORTH AND THE EAST. WE REMAIN DOUBTFUL THAT THE CHIEF HAS MADE ANY BREAKTHROUGHS. THE NCNC GROUP CLEARLY SUBSUMES CLUB 19, OR VICE VERSA, WHILE THE WADA KANO IKOKU GROUPING HAS - IF REPORTS OF THE FOUNDING OF THE NATIONAL MOVMENT ARE CORRECT ALREADY MERGED WITH THE TRADITIONAL NORTHERN PARTY. FINALLY, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER WAZIRI IBRAHIM WILL GO IT ALONE ALL THE WAY IF HE HAS BEEN SHUT OUT OF MUCH OF THE NORTH.
EASUM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS11301
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780370-0765
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780977/aaaac1wx.tel
Line Count: 210
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d5dd5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1470810
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUNCH: \"HOW MANY POLITICAL PARTIES WILL NIGERIA HAVE?\" BEGIN SUMMARY: PUNCH SEES FOUR VIABLE POLITICAL PARTIES EMERGING FROM AMONG THE PRESENT CONTE NDERS WHICH I
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, PDEV, SHUM, NI, NCNC, NATL COUNCIL OF NIGERIAN CITIZENS, (KANO, ALHAJI AMINU), (SHAGARI, SHEHU), (AWOLOWO), (IKOKU, SG), (WAZIRI IBRAHIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d5dd5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

